

medium and ultraviolet space astronomy. Since 1989 he has been a co-investigator on the Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer.

Other newly elected AAS officials include the new treasurer, Leonard V. Kuhl of the University of California, Berkeley, and three new councillors, Frank N. Bash of McDonald Observatory, David J. Helfand of Columbia University and Paula Szkody of the University of Washington. Anita L. Cochran of the University of Texas at Austin and McDonald Observatory has been nominated to serve on the US national committee of the International Astronomical Union.

IN BRIEF

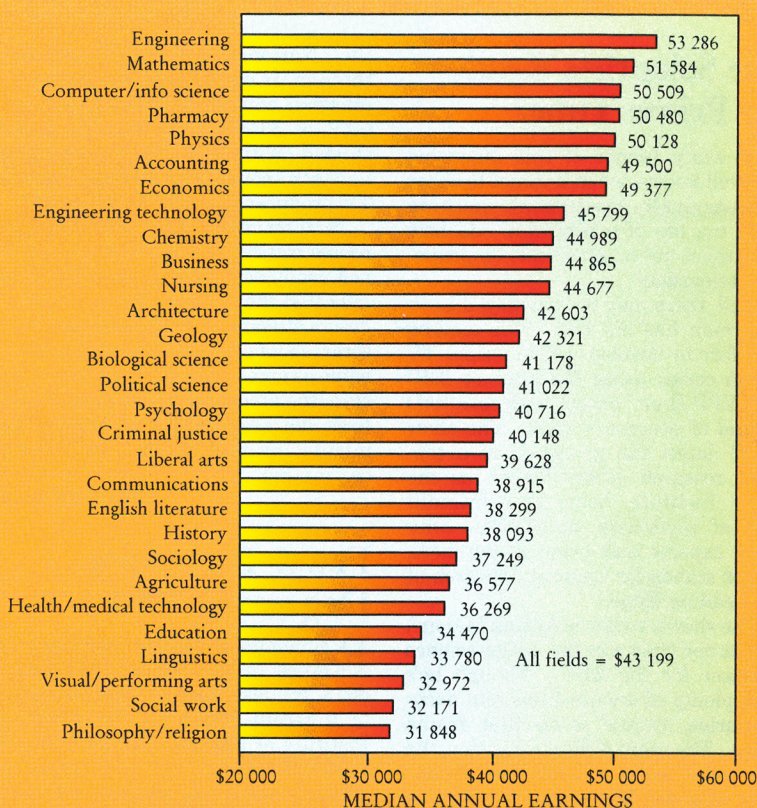
The American Physical Society has produced "CareerPlus," a career and employment guide for physicists just entering the job market as well as for those in midcareer. The guide is included in the society's newsletter, *APS News* and can be accessed on-line at <http://aps.org> under the "career and employment information" button.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has relocated, to 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. All phone numbers and e-mail addresses remain unchanged.

Nine Steps to Achieving Gender Equity in Science Classrooms examines factors leading to the high attrition rate of women from the science education "pipeline." The report was prepared by science, math and engineering students, faculty and staff at colleges within the New England Consortium for Undergraduate Science Education. Single copies are available by calling 401-863-2314. The on-line version resides at http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/homepginfo/Equity_handbook.html.

The second edition of *Working with Congress: A Practical Guide for Scientists and Engineers*, by William G. Wells Jr, offers advice on communicating more effectively with lawmakers. It includes sections on contacting members of Congress by e-mail and locating World Wide Web sites that pertain to Congress, as well as an expanded list of professional societies and other groups that deal with science and technology policy. The guide, which costs \$15.95 plus \$4 for shipping and handling, can be ordered from the AAAS Distribution Center, PO Box 521, Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701; phone 800-222-7809.

The Earning Power of Physics Training



A physics degree may serve its recipient well in the job market. The accompanying chart, drawing on a national survey conducted in 1993, shows the median salaries of males between the ages of 35 and 44 who are in the labor force with a bachelor's (but not higher) degree, along with the field of that degree. Graduates of physics departments fare very well, earning significantly more than the median annual salary for all fields of \$43 199. In this survey, reported in *Monthly Labor Review* (December 1995) and in *Postsecondary Education Opportunity* (March 1996), the men are generally in the middle of their careers—not fresh out of school—and those with a degree in a particular field are not necessarily working in that field (this is especially true for physics baccalaureates).

They're starting young these days. In Richardson, Texas, near Dallas, about 600 children are now finishing their first year at the public Math, Science and Technology Elementary Magnet School. From kindergarten through sixth grade, they are taught an integrated curriculum that focuses on environmental science; computers are used on a daily basis. The school has a number of corporate sponsors, including Alcatel Network Systems and Apple Computer. According to principal John Calny, his school is part of a small but growing trend in primary school education, with similar ones now open in California, New York and elsewhere. An elementary magnet school for Latin and the humanities also opened in Richardson this year.

The Union of Concerned Scientists wants to stem the tide of "junk science," a tactic often associated with the tobacco industry that now is being applied to environmental issues such as climate change and ozone depletion. Through its Sound Science Initiative, UCS disseminates "mainstream, consensus science on global issues and when necessary refutes tainted science," says Eileen Quinn of the UCS. Scientists who participate in the initiative receive updates and alerts as public debates develop, along with suggestions for contacting relevant government officials and members of the press. To receive an orientation package, call 617-547-5552, or send e-mail to Lori Jackson at ljackson@ucsusa.org, stating your name, postal address, phone and fax numbers, occupation and scientific field. ■